

Application No.: 10/652,810
Amendment Dated: August 26, 2004
In Reply to Office Action Dated: August 23, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the aforementioned Office Action originally filed claims 1-34 were subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. In particular, original claims were divided by the Examiner into two (2) groups. Group I, claims 1-26, were identified by the Examiner as being drawn to a vegetation trimmer head/apparatus including the special technical feature of claims 1 and 14, i.e., latch means cooperating with seat means for releasably locking the spool. Group II, claims 27-34, were identified by the Examiner as being drawn to a vegetation trimmer head/apparatus including the special technical feature of claims 27 and 31, i.e., yieldable trimmer line guide means carried by the spool for guiding a trimmer line between exit ports of the trimmer housing.

By telephonic election on August 20, 2004, the undersigned elected the claims of Group II, claims 27-34, for prosecution in the present application. The undersigned hereby confirms that election. However, all of original claims 1-34 have been cancelled by the present Amendment and six (6) new claims, independent claims 35-40, have been added. The new independent claims respectively correspond in scope to originally filed claims 28-30 and 32-34 (which the Examiner has indicated contain allowable subject matter) and are readable on elected claim Group II.

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This Amendment presents six (6) new independent claims for consideration, i.e., new claims 35-40. Further, this Amendment cancels four (4) independent claims, i.e., original claims 1, 14, 27 and 31. Thus, Applicant believes that fees in the amount of \$86.00 are necessitated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) by the instant Amendment because the introduction of two (2) new independent claims in excess of the fourth independent claim for which payment was already made at the time of filing of this application. Accordingly, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any payment of fees associated with this submission to Account No. 501-555.

As noted above, the Examiner indicated that original claims 28-30 and 32-34 contained allowable subject matter. Responsive thereto, by this Amendment the subject matter of original claims 27 and 28 is presented in new claim 35; the subject matter of original claims 27 and 29 is presented in new claim 36; the subject matter of original claims 27 and 30 is presented in new claim 37; the subject matter of original claims 31 and 32 is presented in new claim 38; the subject matter of original claims 31 and 33 is presented in new claim 39; and the subject matter of original claims 31 and 34 is presented in new claim 40. Claims 1-34 have been canceled.


In view of the foregoing, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance and, therefore, early issuance thereof is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be beneficial to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 26, 2004



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